

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, March 18, 2005*

## WARNING PERIOD ENDS—MPDC ISSUES TICKETS FROM NEW PHOTO RADAR CAMERAS BEGINNING MARCH 21

Speeders, beware. Following a month of warning notices only, the MPDC begins issuing tickets on Monday, March 21, to motorists caught speeding aggressively by four new stationary photo radar cameras located in Northeast and Northwest DC. The speeding reduction cameras are situated in the 4700 block of MacArthur Boulevard, NW; the 5400 block of 16th Street, NW; the 100 block of Michigan Avenue, NE; and the 2800 block of Benning Road, NE. The cameras were activated on February 18, but have been generating only warnings as part of a police effort to educate motorists about the dangers of speeding and the MPDC's crackdown on this dangerous behavior using photo radar technology. Beginning March 21, 2005, aggressive speeders caught by the new stationary cameras will receive Notices of Infraction in the mail. While photo-enforced violations do not carry points in the District, the fines for speeding range up to \$200 per violation. During the first four weeks of operation, the four photo radar units detected more than 52,000 vehicles traveling above the threshold speed established for the program. That is an average of about 1,900 aggressive speeding events a day. All of the events captured by the cameras are reviewed and certified by an MPDC officer before warning notices or tickets are mailed, and not every event results in a notice being issued. In February 2004, the District became the first jurisdiction in North America to install a stationary photo radar speeding reduction camera, located in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE. The MPDC has operated a fleet of mobile photo radar vehicles, now totaling eight, since the summer of 2001.

① Read the complete news release at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3118>

① Photo radar has contributed to dramatic reductions in speeding in areas where the technology has been used. The percentage of motorists speeding aggressively has fallen from nearly 1 in 3 at the beginning of the program, to just 1 in 30 motorists in recent months. View the latest results from February at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults\\_text.htm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.htm)

## SUSPECT ARRESTED IN MURDER OF MAYORAL CABINET MEMBER

One day after the vicious and shocking crime occurred, detectives from the MPDC's Violent Crimes Branch arrested and charged a suspect in the fatal stabbing of Wanda Alston, a member of Mayor Williams's Cabinet who was discovered inside her Northeast home this past Wednesday afternoon. Ms. Alston served as acting director of the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, a Cabinet-level position in the Executive Office of the Mayor. Shortly before 6 pm on March 16, MPDC and DC Fire and EMS personnel responded to her residence located at 3808 East Capitol Street, NE, to investigate the report of an unconscious person. Upon arrival, they discovered an adult female lying face down inside of the residence, suffering from multiple stab wounds. Emergency medical personnel could find no life signs, and Ms. Alston was pronounced dead on the scene. On Thursday afternoon, based on tips provided by area residents, police located Ms. Alston's missing vehicle and the suspect in her murder. William Parrot Jr., a 38-year-old neighbor of Ms. Alston, has been charged with Murder I While Armed.

① Read the complete news release at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3117>

## MPDC SEES DRAMATIC JUMP IN POLICE-COMMUNITY LISTSERVS

Recent marketing strategies to recruit government agency representatives, elected officials and residents to join one of several police-community online discussion groups in the city have increased participation by more than 60 percent in the past month. In early January, total membership on the listservs was less a little more than 450 members. To date, nearly 750 members participate in the groups, with membership growing daily. Flyers distributed at PSA and other community meetings, word-of-mouth, as well as invitations posted on other civic associations' listserv groups have contributed to the enrollment increase. Councilmember Adrian Fenty recently posted information about the Fourth District's discussion group in his weekly online newsletter. Within 48 hours, 20 people had joined the group. Police officials have been able to answer questions regarding police activity in a neighborhood, post messages about upcoming PSA meetings and provide crime alerts using the online groups. Captain Patrick Burke recently provided a crime alert on recent robberies associated with ATM use in the Fifth District. A resident responded, "I just left that bank. This is very helpful."

## SPOTLIGHT ON...MPDC'S MISSING PERSONS GUIDE

The first 48 hours following a missing person or runaway episode are the most important in locating a child. While many runaway children return home—or, in the case of missing children, are located—during this period, it is critical to take every action available to help locate and safeguard our children. Do not wait 48 hours to report your child missing. There is no time limit that you must wait to report a person as missing, whether he or she is considered missing or a runaway. And, contrary to some commonly held beliefs, police do not wait a designated period of time (such as 24 or 48 hours) to begin investigating a missing person report. The MPDC has a Missing Persons Guide that instructs parents or guardians on how to take action on missing or runaway children, including instructions on what to do immediately if you believe your child is missing. The online guide also includes information on what preparations to take ahead of time, which will assist investigators if your child does become missing. It also includes valuable telephone numbers and other resources.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Additional Civilian Career Opportunities in the MPDC.** A Capital Project Specialist and a Fleet Servicer are among the civilian career opportunities for which the MPDC is currently accepting applications. Learn more about these two and other civilian vacancies at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>.

**GLLU Recognized for Innovation.** The MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit has been recognized as one of the 50 most creative, forward thinking, results-driven government programs in the United States. The GLLU is a semifinalist for the prestigious "Innovations in American Government Awards" – often referred to as the "Oscars" of government prizes. The 50 programs are now eligible to win one of six \$100,000 grants. Learn more at [http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu/Ash/pr\\_2005sf\\_index.htm](http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu/Ash/pr_2005sf_index.htm).

**Chief Ramsey on "Live at Five" on Wednesday.** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues, and takes phone calls, from 5-6 pm on Wednesday, March 23, during his monthly interview with Latoya Foster on WOL-AM radio.

**Increase in Victims Compensation.** DC's Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) assists victims and their families with the financial burden of a violent crime. Recently, the amount the program pays for funeral expenses was increased from \$3,000 to \$6,000. Details on the CVCP are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/victims/cvcp.shtm>.

- ① Learn more about the police-community listservs at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/city/ss\\_listserv\\_0305.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/city/ss_listserv_0305.shtm)
- ① In addition to these discussion groups, individuals can sign up to receive email summaries of reported crime in their communities through CrimeReports.com. Details at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/reports/crimereports.shtm>
- ① Register with DC.gov to receive email notifications of all news releases issued by the MPDC. Details at:  
<http://dc.gov/registration/register.asp>
- ① Access the Missing Persons Guide at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/missingperson.shtm>

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 3/18/05
◆ 2005: 36	
◆ 2004: 40	
◆ % Change: -10.0%	
◆ Closure Rate: 52.8% (19 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 3/12/05
◆ Total: 980	
◆ Drugs: 187	
◆ Weapons: 22	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 19	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 28	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 3/12/05
◆ Arrests: 63	
◆ Curfew Violations: 26	
◆ Truants: 92	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 3/15/05
◆ March: 76	
◆ 2005 Total: 614	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 3/18/05
◆ 2005: 10	
◆ 2004: 10	
◆ % Change: +Unch	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**